

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 DLOS-06 /029 W
-----160809Z 059475 /17

R 151422Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9335

UNCLAS LAGOS 1804

E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : PLOS, TPHY, XA, NI
SUBJ : VISIT OF NIOMR DIRECTOR TO U.S.

REF: A) STATE 02654; B) STATE 022302; C) STATE 021020; D)LAGOS 0780

1. EMBASSY PASSED INFORMATION IN STATE REFTELS TO NIOMR DIRECTOR BAYAGBONA. HE GRATEFUL FOR ASSISTANCE, WILL ADVISE EMBASSY OF PLANS AFTER CONSULTING CHAIRMAN OF NIOMR GOVERNING BOARD.

2. IN MEANTIME, BAYAGBONA HAS SENT EMBASSY COPY OF LETTER HE WRGTE TO WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE JANUARY 26, RAISING POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE, EARLIER VISIT TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL RESEARCH DATA RELATING TO DEFINITION OF NIGERIAJICONTINENTAL MARGIN IN ORDER TO DEVELOP NIGERIAN POSITION FOR MAY 1977 LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. PARAPHRASED TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS;
A) AT FIFTH SESSION OF THIRD US LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE (AUG 2 TO SEPT. 17, 1976) IRISH PROPOSAL TO DEFINE OUTER LIMIT CONTINENTAL MARGIN ON BASIS OF DEPTH OF SEDIMENTARY ROCKS WAS GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. TO ADVISE MY GOVERNMENT IN TAKING POSITION ON THIS PROPOSAL AM ANXIOUS FIND OUT WHAT IS IN IT FOR US (NIGERIA).

B) HAVE ATLAS FROM YOUR INSTITUTION (REFERENCE NUMBER 74-19) WHICH GIVES SEISMIC REFLECTION, MAGNETIC AND GRAVITY PROFILES OF EASTERN ATLANTIC CONTINENTAL MARGIN AND ADJACENT DEEP SEA FLOOR. DATA GIVE IMPRESSION NIGERIA MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO GAIN BY SUPPORTING IRISH PROPOSAL, AS OPPOSED TO USING 200
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NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT AS CUT OFF TO EXCLUSIVE COASTAL RIGHTS.

C) IN ORDER EDUCATE MYSELF ON MATTER BEFORE ADVISING MY GOVERNMENT, WOULD LIKE HAVE OPPORTUNITY DISCUSSING DATA AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO PROBLEM AVAILABLE TO YOUR INSTITUTE WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS YOUR STAFF. KINDLY LET ME KNOW WHEN I CAN COME AND DISCUSS MATTER. DO NOT EXPECT VISIT

LAST MORE THAN TWO DAYS.

D) PREFER PERSONAL VISIT TO USING LETTERS DUE NEED SAVE TIME AS NEXT SESSION LOS CONFERENCE STARTS MAY 1977 AND ADVICE TO OUR GOVERNMENT NEEDED BY MARCH. MY ENQUIRIES AIMED AT PRODUCING DIAGRAMS OF: A) DEPTH OF WATER/DISTANCE FROM COASTLINE PROFILES FROM BASELINE TO DEEP OCEAN FLOOR (ABYSSAL PLAN) ORIGINATING AT SELECTED POINTS NIGERIAN COASTLINE; 2) DEPTH SEDIMENTARY ROCKS/DISTANCE FROM COASTLINE PROFILES FROM BASELINE TO DEEP OCEAN FLOOR AT SELECTED POINTS ON NIGERIAN COASTLINE, WITH INDICATION OF CUTOFF POINTS FOR EDGE OF CONTINENTAL MARGIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH IRISH PROPOSAL; 3) MAP OF NIGERIAN COASTLINE AND OFFSHORE WATERS SHOWING POSITIONS OF PROPOSED 200 NAUTICAL MILE LIMIT VERSUS LIMIT OF CONTINENTAL MARGIN DRAWN IN ACCORDANCE WITH IRISH PROPOSAL.

E) IF CAN GET THESE DIAGRAMS MADE AND PRINTED IN U.S. WILL BE HAPPY WAIT AND COLLECT THEM AND OF COURSE PAY FOR THEM. GRATEFUL IF YOU CAN ADVISE ESTIMATED COST THIS PRINTING JOB SO I CAN BRING NECESSARY FUNDS.

3. BAYAGBONA EXPLAINED IRISH RESOLUTION, WHICH HE BELIEVES USG SUPPORTS, WOULD EXTEND COASTAL RIGHTS TO POINT AT WHICH THICKNESS OF SEDIMENTARY DEPOSITS ON CONTINENTAL RISE IS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN ONE PERCENT OF DISTANCE FROM FOOT OF CONTINENTAL SLOPE. BAYAGBONA SAID HE BELIEVES RESEARCH DATA PRODUCED BY WOODS HOLE RESEARCH VESSEL ATLANTIS II DURING CRUISE OFF WEST AFRICA IN 1973 WILL BE USEFUL IN DEVELOPING NIGERIAN POSITION
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FOR LOS CONFERENCE, BUT HE NEEDS CLARIFICATION OF HIGHLY TECHNICAL DATA. NIOMR IN PROCESS RECRUITING GEOLOGIST AND BATABONA MAY SEND GEOLOGIST IN PLACE OF HIMSELF IF AVAILABLE IN TIME. EITHER WAY, THIS TRIP WOULD NOT UPSET PLANS FOR NIOMR VISIT TO WOODS HOLE AND OR OTHER OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTIONS IN MARCH. BAYAGBONA ASKED EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE ENSURING HIS INQUIRY REACHES WOODS HOLE OFFICIALS. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CONTACTING WOODS HOLE TO CONFIRM RECEIPT THERE OF BAYAGBONA'S LETTER AND OFFERING RELAY RESPONSE THROUGH EMBASSY.

4. RE MARCH TRIP, BAYAGBONA AND NIOMR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR J.G. TOBOR HAVE TOLD EMBOFF NIOMR WISHES SEND TWO OFFICERS ABROAD IN 1977 TO BEGIN ACADEMIC TRAINING LEADING TO MS AND PHD DEGREES IN OCEANOGRAPHY. THIS ONE REASON BAYAGBONA DESIRES CONCLUDE FORMAL AGREEMENTS WITH U.S. INSTITUTIONS. IN CONNECTION WITH TRAINING, EMBASSY HAS INFORMED BAYAGBONA AND TOBOR OF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE WHICH NOAA WILL PROVIDE UNDER AID GRANT FOR TRAINING IN FISHERIES SUBJECTS (PROGRAM DESCRIBED

IN PAPER TRANSMITTED 13 DEC. 76 FROM FREDERICK J. LANEY,
OFFICE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, NOAA ROCKVILLE). HAVE SUGGESTED
ADDITIONAL REASON BAYAGBONA INCLUDE WASHINGTON IN TRIP WOULD
BE CALL ON LANEY IN ORDER PURSUE NIOMR TRAINING NEEDS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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